

TRANSCRIPTION - ORIGINAL FOLLOWS

AM-AFGHAN REPRISALS (SCHEDULED)

SOVIET REPRISALS FOR AFGHAN REBEL CROSS-BORDER RAIDS
REPORTED

BY RAJA ASGHAR

ISLAMABAD, APRIL 21, REUTER - SOVIET FORCES HAVE CARRIED OUT REPRISAL ATTACKS IN NORTHERN AFGHANISTAN FOLLOWING RECENT AFGHAN REBEL CROSS-BORDER ATTACKS INTO THE SOVIET UNION WESTERN DIPLOMATS SAID TODAY.

THE DIPLOMATS, QUOTING REPORTS RECEIVED FROM AFGHANISTAN, SAID EXTENSIVE SOVIET MILITARY OPERATIONS HAD TAKEN PLACE IN THE AFGHAN PROVINCES OF KUNDUZ AND TAKHAR BORDERING SOVIET TADZHIKISTAN.

THEY HAD NO DETAILS OF THE OPERATIONS, WHICH THEY SAID APPEARED TO BE IN RESPONSE TO THE REBEL ATTACKS.

NEWS SERVICES RUN BY AFGHAN EXILES IN PAKISTAN ALSO REPORTED RETALIATORY SOVIET OPERATIONS IN KUNDUZ AND TAKHAR RECENTLY BUT NO INDEPENDENT CONFIRMATION OF THE REPORTS WAS IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE.

A STATEMENT BY THE SOVIET OFFICIAL NEWS AGENCY TASS LAST WEEK REPORTED AN AFGHAN GUERRILLA CROSS-BORDER RAID INTO THE SOVIET UNION AND SAID MOSCOW WOULD TAKE "EVERY NECESSARY MEASURE TO STOP ANY INFRINGEMENTS ON THE INVIOALAZILITY" OF ITS FRONTIERS.

TASS SAID SATURDAY THE GUERRILLAS FIGHTING THE SOVIET-BACKED AFGHAN GOVERNMENT CROSSED INTO THE SOVIET TADZHIKISTAN NEAR THE SMALL TOWN OF PYANDZA ABOUT 190 MILES NORTH OF KABUL DURING THE NIGHT OF APRIL 8-9 AND KILLED TWO SOVIET BORDER GUARDS IN A GUNBATTLE BEFORE BEING REPELLED WITH "HEAVY CASUALTIES."

EARLIER THIS MONTH THE SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY NEWSPAPER PRAVDA AND MOSCOW TELEVISION REPORTED THAT GUERRILLAS FIRED ROCKETS ACROSS THE FRONTIER AT A PYANZH FACTORY IN MARCH. ACCORDING TO WESTERN ESTIMATES, MOSCOW HAS ABOUT 115,000 TROOPS IN AFGHANISTAN SUPPORTING THE KABUL GOVERNMENT, WHICH HAS BEEN OPPOSED BY THE GUERRILLAS SINCE THE COMMUNISTS SEIZED POWER IN 1978.

THE DIPLOMATS SAID THEY HAD ALSO RECEIVED REPORTS OF HEAVY FIGHTING IN AFGHANISTAN'S EASTERN PROVINCES OF PAKTIA, PARWANI, LOGAR AND GHAZNI IN THE PAST WEEK AND SEVERAL SOVIET OR AFGHAN MILITARY AIRCRAFT BEING SHOT DOWN BY THE GUERRILLAS.

ACCORDING TO THEM, THE GUERRILLAS BEHEADED FIVE RECONCILIATION OFFICIALS IN THE NORTHERN AFGHAN PROVINCE OF BALKH EARLY THIS MONTH AND KILLED THREE COMMUNIST PARTY MEMBERS IN THE CAPITAL ON WEDNESDAY.

THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT HAS FORMED RECONCILIATION COMMISSIONS AT THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS TO TRY FOR PEACE WITH THE REBELS.

THE DIPLOMATS SAID THE BALKH INCIDENT OCCURRED PROBABLY ON APRIL 6, WHEN FIVE NATIONAL RECONCILIATION COMMISSION MEMBERS FROM THE AREA TRYING TO CONVENE A MEETING WERE ATTACKED BY THE REBELS.

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Dr. David Rogers

Date 8/28/68

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